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### Wider Consensus Sought

*Editor, The Wall Street Journal:*

Your useful editorial on "The Manner of Dissent" (June 18) overlooks one factor.

Official circles such as the Administration, Congress or Governmental agencies enjoy unlimited access to the public media, and at no cost to themselves.

When it appears to a large segment of the intellectual community or the public at large that an official policy is unwise or dangerous, they must compete on a very unfair basis for access to information-carrying media. This is the basic reason for many of the tactics you seem to deplore, although how they depart from the American tradition is difficult to see. "Teach-ins" are not always debates; debates are not always evenly balanced; and protest groups may not always select a discussion format. The important thing, surely, is sufficient visibility for a variety of views so that the U.S. public has an informed basis for choice.

No one could successfully argue that the partisan presentation of the President and his all-too-small coterie of advisers by themselves can represent the American tradition of discussion and debate.

As Senator Wayne Morse averred at SANE's recent Madison Square Garden Rally, the consensus on Vietnam is a "consensus among the State Department, Defense Department, CIA and White House staff." We do not feel the consensus is wide enough.

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